National Agricultural Summary

May 29 - June 4, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Heavy rain saturated soils and left standing water on many fields in Wisconsin. Severe weather also moved across central and eastern Iowa, but most of the precipitation was beneficial for crop development. Light and moderate showers maintained moisture levels in the eastern Corn Belt, including a substantial area of surplus moisture in Ohio. However, moisture shortages remained in some areas of the western Corn Belt. Scattered heavy rainfall hampered fieldwork in parts of the southern Great Plains and along the Coastal Plains in North Carolina and Virginia. Hot, dry weather stressed crops in the Southeast and lower Mississippi Valley. Warm weather accelerated crop development in the central Great Plains, but moisture levels diminished. In the northern Great Plains, moisture supplies remained mostly adequate, while light showers aided crops in the northern High Plains. Warm, dry weather prevailed in the Southwest.

Winter Wheat: Ninety-three percent of the crop was at the heading stage or beyond, and 8 percent was harvested. Acreage headed or beyond remained 1 week ahead of this date last year and more than 1 week ahead of the 84-percent average for this date. Above-normal temperatures accelerated ripening in the central and southern Great Plains. Wheat headed advanced more than 30 percentage points in Oregon, Montana, and South Dakota and steadily advanced in Idaho and Washington, despite cooler-than-normal weather. In the Corn Belt, soft red winter wheat rapidly progressed to the heading stage in Michigan. Most remaining hard red winter wheat in Nebraska and Colorado progressed to the heading stage. The harvest pace was also ahead of last year and the average for this date. In the southern Great Plains, harvest advanced to more than one-fourth complete in Texas and Oklahoma before late-week rains interrupted progress in many areas. Harvest also rapidly advanced with few rain delays in Arkansas. In California, warm weather quickly ripened wheat fields and harvest accelerated due to dry weather. Conditions deteriorated in North Carolina due to heavy rain, standing water, and strong winds. Increasing moisture shortages stressed some fields in Oregon.

Corn: Ninety-seven percent of the crop was emerged, more than 1 week ahead of last year's 88-percent pace. Warm weather and adequate topsoil moisture supplies promoted emergence in Colorado, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota. Emergence was delayed in Michigan due to slow planting the previous week. In Wisconsin, germination and emergence were hindered by heavy rainfall and saturated soils. Warm weather and adequate topsoil moisture aided germination in Indiana, North Dakota, Ohio, and Tennessee, where most remaining corn fields emerged. Rain improved moisture supplies and benefited crop development in many areas of the Corn Belt, although parts of the western Corn Belt remained too dry. Meanwhile, conditions deteriorated in parts of the northern and eastern Corn Belt due to excessive soil moisture supplies. Hot, dry weather stressed corn fields in the southern High Plains, where growth was accelerating. A few fields entered the reproductive stage in Oklahoma and nearly half of the Texas acreage was silking.

Soybeans: Ninety percent of the acreage was planted, nearly 2 weeks ahead of last year and more than 2 weeks ahead of the 5-year average for this date. Planting was active in Arkansas, Kentucky, Michigan, and Tennessee, as rain delays were minimal. Wet weather limited planting in parts of Illinois, Ohio, and most of Wisconsin. Mostly dry weather aided progress in the western Corn Belt and Great Plains, where nearly all remaining soybean fields were planted by the end of the week. In North Carolina, planting advanced to 50 percent complete, despite heavy rainfall along the Coastal Plains. Emergence, at 80 percent, was far ahead of last year's 54-percent pace. Warm weather and adequate moisture promoted rapid emergence in most areas of the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains. Emergence advanced 20 or more percentage points in Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Warm weather also stimulated crop emergence in the Mississippi Delta States, especially in Louisiana, although moisture supplies diminished. Heavy rain and standing water damaged soybean fields in Wisconsin, while increasing moisture shortages stressed fields in Nebraska.

Small grains: Spring wheat and barley were 98 and 97 percent emerged, respectively. Normally, 78 percent of the spring wheat and 79 percent of the barley are emerged by this date. Moderate showers aided emergence in Montana, where most remaining spring wheat and barley fields sprouted. The improved moisture supplies also stimulated growth of emerged barley and spring wheat fields in Montana. In the Pacific Northwest, development continued even though cooler-than-normal weather prevailed. Five percent of the oat acreage was headed, compared with last year and the average pace of 3 percent. Development was well ahead of normal in Nebraska and Ohio, where acreage headed was 37 and 23 percent, respectively. Development slightly lagged in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Cotton: Planting was 88 percent complete, slightly behind last year's pace, but 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Growers finished planting cotton in Tennessee and Louisiana, while planting steadily advanced in Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas, and South Carolina. Cotton squaring was at 11 percent, equal to the 5-year average and slightly ahead of this date last year. Development was most advanced in Arizona and California, where acreage squaring was 28 and 20 percent, respectively. Acreage squaring accelerated in the lower Mississippi Valley due to warm weather. Increasing moisture shortages stressed cotton plants in most areas of the Southeast and lower Mississippi Valley. In North Carolina, heavy rain damaged cotton fields along the Coastal Plains. Moisture shortages stressed cotton fields in parts of the southern High Plains, while rain provided adequate moisture in eastern Oklahoma and scattered parts of northern Texas.

Rice : Ninety-four percent of the crop was emerged, slightly behind last year's 95-percent pace, but ahead of the 90-percent average for this date. Emergence advanced 35 percentage points in California and was well ahead of normal, while progress continued to lag in Mississippi.

Sorghum: Seventy-five percent of the sorghum acreage was planted, more than 1 week ahead of last year's 54-percent pace and 17 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was active in the central Great Plains and Corn Belt, and accelerated in the southern High Plains. Planting advanced 22 points in New Mexico, even though soil moisture shortages increased.

Other crops: Ninety-three percent of the peanut acreage was planted, equal to last year's pace, and 7 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting lagged in Florida due to moisture shortages, while rain delayed planting in North Carolina and Virginia. Seventy percent of the sunflower acreage was planted. In the northern Great Plains, progress was well ahead of last year and the 5-year average.